

REMARKS

Claims 9, 11, 20, 22, 29, 31, 32, 36, 38, and 39 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 8, 10, 19, 21, 24, 26-28, 30, 33-35, 37, 40, and 41 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 11, 20, 22, 29, 31, 32, 36, 38, and 39 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicants rewrite claim 9, 11, 20, 22, 29, 31, 36, and 38 in independent form. Claims 32 and 39 depend from claims 31 and 38, respectively.

Since the amendments place the application in immediate condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8, 10, 19, 21, 24, 26-28, 30, 33-35, 37, 40, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 865, 386 to Aoyama *et al* (“Aoyama”).

Since the rejected claims have been canceled, the rejection thereto is rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/671,547

Attorney Docket No.: Q77532

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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